



Klein, House Approve Final Version of Children's Health Bill

Legislation heads to President's desk for signature

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Ron Klein (FL-22) today joined a bipartisan majority of his colleagues to support the final version of critical children's health care legislation, which will provide health care to 11 million children across the country. The bill, the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) Reauthorization (H.R. 2) was most recently passed by the House in mid-January, and has since been approved by the Senate. Following the final House vote today, the legislation will be sent to President Obama's desk for signature.

"Relief cannot come fast enough for the millions of children without basic healthcare coverage and for low-income families struggling to make ends meet, and I look forward to seeing this bill signed into law," Klein said. "In these difficult economic times, it is more important than ever to make sure our kids have access to affordable, quality health care."

Today's legislation will provide health care coverage to just under 300,000 uninsured kids in the state of Florida, reducing the percentage of children who are uninsured statewide by more than a third. During Congressman Klein's tenure in the Florida State Senate, he helped oversee the implementation of the Children's Health Insurance program in Florida and praised the bipartisan program as an innovative way to provide health care coverage to hundreds of thousands of low income children.

"This is a common-sense program supported by Republicans and Democrats, as well as business leaders and the vast majority of the American people," Klein said. "Covering more eligible kids is not only the right thing to do, it is also more cost-effective for taxpayers than relying on emergency rooms to treat sick children."

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